

NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE
COHORT STUDIES

Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
 - a) truly representative of the average ____ (describe) in the community ★★
 - b) somewhat representative of the average ____ in the community ★
 - c) selected group of users e.g. nurses, volunteers
 - d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non exposed cohort
 - a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort ★
 - b) drawn from a different source
 - c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure
 - a) secure record (e.g. surgical records) ★
 - b) structured interview ★
 - c) written self report
 - d) no description
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study
 - a) yes ★
 - b) no

Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis
 - a) study controls for ____ (select the most important factor) ★
 - b) study controls for any additional factor ★ (This criteria could be modified to indicate specific control for a second important factor.)

Outcome

- 1) Assessment of outcome
 - a) independent blind assessment ★
 - b) record linkage ★
 - c) self report
 - d) no description
- 2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
 - a) yes (select an adequate follow up period for outcome of interest) ★
 - b) no
- 3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts
 - a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for ★
 - b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost- > ____% (select an adequate %) follow up, or description provided of those lost) ★
 - c) follow up rate < ____% (select an adequate %) and no description of those lost
 - d) no statement

1. Wells G, Shea B, O'Connell D, Robertson J, Peterson J, Losos M, et al. The Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) for Assessing the Quality of Nonrandomized Studies in Meta- Analysis. Oxf UK. 2000.
2. Rostom A, Dubé C, Cranney A, Saloojee N, Sy R, Garritty C, et al. Appendix D. Quality Assessment Forms. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2004.